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Brookfield March 19th 1832.

Revd. Amos A. Phelps.

Dr. Sir. The religious society in this (South Parish,) over which the Revd. Micah Stone is pastor, have, in consultation & concert with their Pastor, determined to attempt to obtain another man to come & enter into his labors, & take the pastoral charge of his flock; in the hope that thus the present church & people may, more strengthened, & that the truth may be extended beyond our little circle, & embrace — & be embraced by — & sanctify, those who now, we believe are listening to error & false doctrine, — who yet, from personal prejudice, rather than from hatred of evangelical truth, — will not receive it at the lips of Mr. Stone.

The details of our situation are too numerous & minute to be communicated in a letter. Suffice it to say, that, though a small & feeble band, we are united among ourselves. We trust that the Spirit of the Lord is in the hearts of his elect. & in some good measure, also, moving upon the hearts of the people, preparing them for the reception & influence of the truth. But we are surrounded by unitarians, & universalists, who want to be converted, — & by baptists, & methodists, many of whom want to be instructed. You perceive, therefore, that we have a fine missionary field for labor. And hearing that you are about to leave your people, we are induced to request you to come & look at us, & preach to us a few Sabbaths, with a view to a settlement among us, on the modern ground, — as long as we are agreed, — or as long as we can maintain it by the way of duty here. And on this latter point I feel to say that our engagement cannot exceed five hundred dollars per annum, which is a little above the average of salaries, as I am told, in this

association. Your neighbor & brethren. Revd. Mr. Fitch has supplied us the two past Sabbaths, but can do no more; & leaves us this morning. We shall, therefore, be glad to see you here the next Sabbath, if in your power, & for sacred suffering ones, if you can so oblige us. — At any rate I have to request your early answer to this, — whether you can come at all, & when, & how long a term; — & if you come or wish to consider you a candidate for settlement — Your early reply will oblige us.

In behalf of the Committee of the Ebb. Society, — I am dear Sir,

Y. Obdt. Servt. Respectfully

W B Bannister

P. S. Be pleased to come directly to my house —

W. B. Bannister
Brookfield
March 19th 1832